

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4-7 are amended.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) does not add any additional claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Joerger during the telephone interview held October 30, 2006, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3 and 4.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tsurumi et al. (Tsurumi), U.S. Patent No. 6,070,867. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Tsurumi fails to disclose a rotary clutch device with a rotatable cam body separated from a tooth-partially-lacking gear in a radial direction so as to form a space therebetween, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claims 5 and 6.

Tsurumi discloses a sheet supplying apparatus with a first notched gear 14 and a second notched gear 6. The second notched gear 6 includes a pawl 13 that extends through a slot 14a of the second notched gear 14 (Fig. 1A and col. 5, lines 43-48). Tsurumi fails to provide any disclosure with regard to the first notched gear 14 and the second notched gear 6 being separated from each other in a radial direction so as to form a space therebetween. Tsurumi thus fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1, 5 and 6.

Tsurumi also fails to disclose a rotary clutch device with a second rotating body that is smaller in diameter than a first rotating body, as recited in claim 7. As illustrated in

Tsurumi's Fig. 1A, the first notched gear 14 and the second notched gear 6 have the same diameter. Tsurumi thus fails to disclose all of the features recited in claim 7.

Tsurumi also fails to disclose a rotary clutch device with an impact absorber disposed between the first rotating body and the second rotating body to absorb an impact that occurs when the engagement portion is engaged with the second rotating body, as recited in claim 9.

Tsurumi's spring 10 is disposed between the first notched gear 14 and the second notched gear 6. As illustrated in Fig. 3D, when the first notched gear 14 further rotates, the spring 10 generates an elastic force and the second notched gear 6 is further rotated by the elastic force (col. 7, lines 36-41). Thereafter, locking pawl 13 is caught by the locking pawl 7a of the solenoid 7 and the gear is stopped.


The spring 10 is used to engage the locking pawl 13 with the locking pawl 7a, and thus creates the impact rather than absorb an impact that occurs when an engagement portion is engaged with a second rotating body, as recited in claim 9. Tsurumi thus fails to disclose all of the features recited in claim 9.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/sxb

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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